

CN 293

X/13 CURT -- SWEDES CANCEL EAST EUROPEAN SPORTS EVENTS

STOCKHOLM, AUG 22 -- (RFE SPECIAL/HENRY) -- NUMEROUS SWEDISH SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE CANCELLED SCHEDULED EVENTS AGAINST EAST EUROPEAN TEAMS BECAUSE OF THE DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA THIS WEEK.

ALONG WITH THEIR DANISH AND NORWEGIAN COUNTER PARTS, THE SWEDISH TRACK AND FIELD ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS LAST NIGHT DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO SENT PARTICIPANTS TO THE SCHEDULED EUROPEAN JUNIOR ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS IN LEIPZIG THIS WEEKEND.

SWEDENS ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION AT THE SAME TIME CABLED MOSCOW TO ADVISE RUSSIAS CHAMPIONSHIP ICE HOCKEY TEAM CSKA NOT RPT NOT TO ARRIVE HERE THIS WEEKEND FOR A SCHEDULED SERIES OF EXHIBITION MATCHES AGAINST THE TOP SWEDISH CLUBS. THE ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION CABLE EXPLAINED THAT "DUE TO NEWLY-ARISEN INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, WE ARE ANNULING TRAINING MATCHES. THE DECISION IS FINAL."

ADDITIONALLY SWEDENS PENTATHLON ASSOCIATION HAS CANCELLED SCHEDULED PARTICIPATION IN BUDAPEST THIS WEEKEND OF SWEDENS TOP MEN IN THAT EVENT.

"WE DO NOT WANT TO TAKE THE RISK THAT THEY MIGHT GET STUCK THERE, JUST SO CLOSE TO THE OLYMPICS," SAID TEAM LEADER SVEN THOFELT.

SWEDISH SPORTS PAGES TODAY ARE SPECULATING THAT THE NATION MAY, INDEED, BOYCOTT THE OLYMPICS IN PROTEST AGAINST THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. BUT SWEDISH OC GENERAL SECRETARY TEN SVENSSON SAID NO DECISION WAS LIKELY BEFORE THE SEPT. 7-8 MEETING AT VERSAILLES OF THE EUROPEAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, WHERE BOTH RUSSIA AND CZECHOSLOVAIA ARE TO BE REPRESENTED.

SWEDISH SPORTS OFFICIALS RECALLED TODAY THAT IN 1956, SWEDEN DECIDED ONLY AT THE LAST MINUTE TO PARTICIPATE AT MELBOURNE, WHERE THE HUNGARIAN TEAM ULTIMATELY REFUSED TO PARADE UNDER THE COMMUNIST FLAG. HOLLAND, SPAIN, IRAQ, EGYPT, LEBANON, SWITZERLAND AND COMMUNIST CHINA BOYCOTTED THE 1956 GAMES, THE SWEDISH SPORTS OFFICIALS RECALLED, BUT DID NOT REMEMBER IF ALL DID SO AS A RESULT OF RUSSIAS MARCH INTO HUNGARY.

JON/HI 1701 1830/68